

Testimony in opposition to HB477
March 26, 2015
Senate Judiciary Committee

SENATE JUDICIARY
Exhibit No. 14
Date: 3/26/15
Bill No. HB 477

My name is Roberta King and I live in Missoula.

I am here to urge you to vote no on HB 477.

My father was Robert Baxter. He was the plaintiff in the case that brought Physician Aid in Dying to Montanans.

My Dad was a typical Montanan, he was an honest, hardworking truck driver who loved camping and fishing. He was also a very patriotic ex-marine. He always wanted to do things the right way.

I was very close to my dad and he shared with me a number of times during his last months his thoughts on his passing. His pain and suffering were unbearable, and he told me he wanted aid in his dying. But, that choice was not legal in Montana. This made his suffering much more difficult than it otherwise could have been. He suffered so much that the summer before he died he called and told me he had purchased a gun and was going to end his life.

If this bill passes that is the choice you are leaving people to make. In the end my dad soldiered on so his family would not have to witness his violent death.

The court ruled in his favor the day he died.

Now Montanans do have the right to legal aid in dying. As Montanans, we believe that we know how to take care of ourselves without government interference. We trust our doctors to help us when we are well and when we are suffering.

This is a choice. A choice to be made by a patient and his or her physician. Please don't take away that choice.

Thank You
Roberta King, daughter of Bob Baxter, Missoula, MT